

Consul's Corner

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Americans Abroad Caucus

We live overseas, but are Americans. We bank in the U.S., but reside in any number of countries around the globe. Our passports are American, but our home address is on the other side of the ocean.



Your government does care about you ... even if you don't live in the U.S.

Little things that should not be complicated suddenly are solely because we reside in a different country. From trying to unravel a banking difficulty due to the 'Know your customer' part of the Bank Secrecy Act portion of the Patriot Act to trying to register for an absentee ballot with your (former) local county, to trying to renew your driver's license from overseas. These tasks would generally take a citizen in the U.S. a few hours and some time in a line; for a citizen living over-

seas, they may be insurmountable.

Here's the good news: the government is listening! In early 2007 Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC), formed the first bi-partisan Americans Abroad Caucus to address the concerns of several million US citizens living outside the United States. The caucus has rapidly grown in membership, now numbering 29 members from both par-

ties. The purpose of this bi-partisan caucus is to provide a forum for discussion of the issues that are important to overseas Americans including citizenship, census, voting, and taxation.

For more information about the caucus, as well as a list of all caucus members, and their bios at http://www.aca.ch/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=72&Itemid=74.

You can read more including recent legislation, on Congresswoman Maloney's website at http://maloney.house.gov/index.php?option=com_issues&task=view_issue&issue=282&parent=11&Itemid=35.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS FOR THE EMBASSY:

- September 7 (Monday) - Labor Day
- October 3 (Saturday) - Full Moon of Thadingyut
- October 12 (Monday) - Columbus Day
- November 1 (Sunday) - Full Moon of Tazaungmone
- November 11 (Wednesday) - Veterans' Day
- November 26 (Thursday) - Thanksgiving Day

Getting counted: A census study

Everyone wants to be properly represented in the government. Besides casting a ballot, it's also important that the number of representatives in federal government accurately reflect the number of people residing in a state.

Recently, Utah narrowly missed gaining a fourth seat in the House of Representatives, and attributed its low population count to the num-



American living overseas should be included in the census. The question is how to include them.

ber of missionaries outside the country at the time of the census.

Rep. Jim Matheson (D-UT) added language to a State Department reauthorization bill (H.R. 2410), that instructs the Secretary of State to work with the Director of the Census Bureau to conduct a feasibility study "on whether there can be implemented a method for using the passports of U.S. citizens living overseas to facilitate voting in U.S. elections and for being counted in the U.S. census."

Get involved in Americans Overseas Week 2010!

You're an American and you're overseas, so here's something you can get involved in! Overseas Americans Week, the annual week-long joint lobbying effort in Washington carried out by American Citizens Abroad, the Association of Americans

Resident Overseas (AARO) and the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO), requires months of pre-planning.

OAW 2010 is already scheduled for the week of 19-23

April. New groups and potential delegates are welcomed, and should get on board as early in the game as possible.

For more on how you can participate, contact Info.aca@gmail.com.

Showing our Appreciation: A Warden Breakfast

As a well-deserved thank you to our designated Embassy wardens, the Consular section will host a warden breakfast in September (tentatively scheduled for Friday, 18 September). More details to follow!

A warden acts as a contact for

a group of registered Americans living in the same physical proximity in Rangoon or other areas of Burma. If there were an emergency and we couldn't send out emails (as happened after Cyclone Nargis) the warden would be responsible for contacting the people on their "warden list" and sharing important infor-

mation. Wardens also maintain their list of Americans by making periodic phone calls and notifying us of any changes.

If you are interested in becoming a warden, please contact Amy Robinson at consularrangoon@state.gov.

Mosquitoes, Dengue, and Snake bites: Oh my!

A special thank you to Dr. Olivier Cattin from International SOS clinic, Dr. Helen Hanson from the Australian Embassy and Dr. Winn Min Than from the U.S. Embassy for their very informative presentation on 27 July about Dengue and Snake bites.

More than 30 Americans from the community and from the Embassy came to the presentation.

The first part of the presentation covered the disease den-

gue and its treatment, as well as prevention of the disease by reducing mosquito populations in/around your home. Dengue is prevalent in Rangoon and Burma.

The second part of the presentation covered snakes and snake bites. We learned about how to identify the different types of snakes that are problems in Burma, as well as how to respond should a bite occur.

Thank you, again, to these



Mosquitoes carry the threat of dengue, which is prevalent throughout Burma and Rangoon.

three knowledgeable medical professionals. We hope to offer the presentation again in the future!

Armchair travel planning at it's best!

Are any of you tired of going to the same old restaurant, or the same old shopping area? Looking for a new place to visit without having to get on an airplane? Why not look at some of the tips and ideas from other folks living in Burma? Check out <http://www.virtualtourist.com/travel/Asia/Burma/TravelGuide-Burma.html>.

This website offers reviews,

From hotel suggestions, to exploring tips for different regions, check out what others in Burma are saying.

suggestions and photos of other travelers who have al-

ready been there. They did the hard part, and now you can reap the benefits!

So if you're looking for a new hotel to try in Mandalay, for what there might be to do in Setse, or a new place to explore in Rangoon, check it out. Armchair travel has never been easier!

American Embassy Rangoon

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Coming to Burma? AmCits register with us!

Please register with us! We welcome your visit to our Consular Section during American Citizen Service hours (Mondays through Fridays, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.). We are here to help you with routine and emergency services. We can better serve you if you are registered with us. Drop by and complete your registration form. Alternately, you may register online at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

If you are already registered with us, please let us know if you have changes (e.g. new baby, new phone number, moved, etc)

Please call us if you have any questions.

Burma Shavings: Want to get it?

If you would like to receive the Embassy's weekly newsletter the "Burma Shavings" electronically, please send an email to the Community Liaison Officer at clorangoon@state.gov. The Burma Shavings includes Embassy events, community events, classifieds, etc.

Also, if you would



Subscribe to the Burma Shavings to get info about goings on in Rangoon.

like to advertise a classified or event in the Burma Shavings, please email [Bur-](mailto:BurmaShavings@state.gov)

[maShavings@state.g](mailto:maShavings@state.gov)
[ov](mailto:maShavings@state.gov) with your wording and contact information.